

County Attorney

Department Overview

The Office of County Attorney prosecutes all felony crimes committed in the County, as well as all misdemeanor crimes committed outside of the limits of the incorporated cities and towns. The Office handles all abuse and neglect cases and juvenile cases. It advises crime victims in a competent and professional manner. The Office of County Attorney promotes public safety and ensure offender accountability by handling an ever increasing criminal caseload; advocating for victims and victim's rights; facilitating financial restitution for victims; creating and refining processes to deal with criminal justice issues; providing sound legal advice to all offices, departments, and local government entities; and providing good representation for the County in all civil cases.

Staffing for the office includes: six administrative support positions; seven criminal, youth and juvenile prosecutors, two civil attorneys, the County Attorney; and two victim/witness support positions. The department also reviews, monitors, and bills third party insurance for payment of mental evaluations within the County.

The focus for the FY 07 Budget is payment of salaries for the attorneys and administrative staff that are more commensurate with what private attorneys and paralegals are paid in Gallatin County. Increased pay should help reduce turnover thereby increasing productivity and providing better service to county residents.

Department Goals

- To protect public safety and ensure offender accountability by handling the ever increasing criminal caseload.
 - To advocate for victims and victim's rights.
 - To facilitate financial restitution for victims.
 - To create and refine processes to deal with criminal justice issues.
 - To provide sound legal advice to all offices, departments and local government entities.
 - To provide good representation for the County in all civil cases.
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Recent Accomplishments

- The sexual assault team, spearheaded by Ashley Harrington, has improved the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases in Gallatin County
- The County Attorney filed Montana's first enforcement action regarding unlawful diversion of water
- The civil staff dealt with myriad development issues such as county-wide zoning, transfer of development rights, and water resources

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

County Attorney

Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Year End Est.					
	Actual FY 2005	Final FY 2006	/ Actual FY 2006	Baseline FY 2007	Request FY 2007	Preliminary FY 2007
Personnel	\$ 677,416	\$ 885,817	797,844	\$ 875,174	945,915	963,943
Operations	181,751	221,739	222,977	210,661	232,981	225,661
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	13,506	15,000	15,000	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 872,673	\$ 1,122,556	\$ 1,020,884	\$ 1,085,835	\$ 1,178,896	\$ 1,189,604

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ 872,673	\$ 1,107,556	\$ 1,005,884	\$ 1,085,835	\$ 1,178,896	\$ 1,189,604
Special Revenue Funds	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	-
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 872,673	\$ 1,122,556	\$ 1,020,884	\$ 1,085,835	\$ 1,178,896	\$ 1,189,604

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 392,926	\$ 368,151	\$ 364,469	\$ 427,829	\$ 368,151	\$ 424,705
Non-Tax Revenues	489,253	383,218	402,379	525,027	383,218	468,880
Cash Reappropriated	(19,506)	371,187	254,035	132,979	427,527	296,019
Total	\$ 862,673	\$ 1,122,556	\$ 1,020,884	\$ 1,085,835	\$ 1,178,896	\$ 1,189,604

Department Personnel

Personnel Summary

No	FT/PT	Title	FTE
1	Full-Time	County Attorney	1.00
1	Full-Time	Chief Deputy County Attorney	1.00
8	Full-Time	Deputy County Attorneys	8.00
3	Full-Time	Legal Secretary III	3.00
3	Full-Time	Administrative Support	3.00
1	Full-Time	Property Witness Assistant	1.00
	Temporary	Intern	
Total Program FTE			17.00

County Attorney

2007 Budget Highlights

Personnel

- Intern removed for Baseline consideration. Requesting increase for Admin. Staff. Requesting Deputy Attorney's be paid comparable to Public Defender's.

Operations

- Funding for Special Investigations will continue to be within the Payment In Lieu of Taxes Fund (PILT).

Capital

-

County Commission Goals/Department Response

The County Commission established a set of overarching goals for the county government. Listed below are the County Commission's goals, followed by the methods by which the County Attorney Office is striving to fulfill those goals.

Exceptional Customer Service

- Filing or declining to file all criminal cases within 90 days.
- Speedier resolution of all filed criminal cases.
- Obtain verdicts convicting defendants of at least one offense in 90% of all jury and judge trials in criminal cases.
- Obtain judgments or enforcements orders in all newly filed civil code enforcements cases.

Be Model for Excellence in Government

- Continue and Enhance Victim Advocacy office.
- Meet public demand for civil health and zoning code enforcement.

Improve Communications

- Training and Staff meetings for improved communications.

To be the Employer of Choice

- Training and Staff meetings for improved communications.
- Maintain wages commensurate with private sector.

County Attorney

WORKLOAD INDICATORS/PERFORMANCE MEASURERS

Workload Indicators

Indicator	Actual FY 2004	Actual FY 2005	Estimated FY 2006	Projected FY 2007
1 . New Felony Filings	418	439	408	465
2 . New Misdemeanor Filings	783	781	828	818
3 . Requests for Prosecution-Both Felony & Misdemeanor	462	477	437	520
4 . Revocation - Dept. of Corrections	113	106	113	111
5 . Bad Check Cases	457	269	404	
6 . Juvenile Cases	52	77	83	103
7 . Involuntary Commitments	39	54	48	48
8 . Post Conviction Relief Filings	16	12	15	
9 . Child Abuse & Neglect	22	34	21	39

Performance Measures

Measure	Actual FY 2004	Actual FY 2005	Estimated FY 2006	Projected FY 2007
1 . Increase use of victim/witness questionnaire to 90%				
2 . Percent Convicted of offense				
3 . Goal of plea to the "top count" 100%				
4 .				
5 .				
6 .				
7 .				
8 .				
9 .				

Commentary

The County Attorney Office was approved wage increases for Deputy Attorney's for \$48,356, in addition, Para-Professional support staff was approved for reclassification costing an estimated \$24,362.